

**We claim:**

1. A method of avoiding contamination of an inner surface of a hollow glass body by alkali compounds during thermal processing, said method comprising providing an overpressure in said hollow glass body during said thermal processing.
2. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising flowing a gas or a gas mixture through said hollow glass body during said thermal processing.
3. The method as defined in claim 2, wherein said thermal processing takes place at one end of said hollow glass body and said gas or said gas mixture is introduced into said hollow glass body at another end of said hollow glass body opposite from said one end.
4. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising flowing air through said hollow glass body during said thermal processing.
5. The method as defined in claim 4, wherein said thermal processing takes place at one end of said hollow glass body and said air is introduced into said hollow glass body at another end of said hollow glass body opposite from said one end.

6. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said hollow glass body is at least partially closed.

7. The method as defined in claim 6, further comprising making a residual opening for pressure balancing during or after said thermal processing.

8. The method as defined in claim 7, wherein said hollow glass body is a glass tube, said thermal processing takes place at one end of said glass tube and said glass tube is constricted at another end of said glass tube opposite from said one end.

9. The method as defined in claim 6, wherein said hollow glass body is a glass tube, said thermal processing takes place at one end of said glass tube and another end of said glass tube is closed by a stopper with a through-going opening.

10. The method as defined in claim 2, wherein said gas or said gas mixture is air, said thermal processing takes place at one end of said hollow glass body and said air is introduced into said hollow glass body at another end of said hollow glass body opposite from said one end.

11. A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container being made by a method comprising thermal processing of a hollow glass body, wherein an overpressure is provided in an interior of said hollow glass body during said thermal processing.

12. The glass container as defined in claim 11, wherein said hollow glass body is a glass tube (2).

13. The glass container as defined in claim 11, having an alkali release from an inner surface thereof of at most 70 percent of an alkali release from an inner surface of another container made by said method comprising said thermal processing except that said overpressure was not provided.

14. A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container being made by a method comprising the steps of:

- a) thermally cutting a glass tube to length;
- b) thermally opening a bottom formed on the glass tube during the cutting to length; and
- c) at the same time as the thermally opening of step b), providing an overpressure in an interior of said glass tube.

15. The glass container as defined in claim 11, having an alkali release from an inner surface thereof of at most 70 percent of an alkali release from an inner

surface of another container made by said method comprising said thermal processing except that said overpressure was not provided.

16. A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container having a sodium oxide release from an interior surface thereof of at most about 2.0 mg/l of sodium oxide.